

Drake's Ice Bruins munch their way into top spot

by Stu Layfield

Huskies 1, Bears 6
Wesmen 2, Bears 11

The hungry University of Alberta Golden Bears found eastern WCIAA opponents to be rather a palatable lot over the weekend as the high scoring Bears feasted heartily on a nourishing diet of Huskies and Wesmen that happened to venture into their lair.

The ill-fated victims on Friday night were the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, who fell 6-1 before the Bears, who were famished since their last regular meal against the University of Victoria Vikings the weekend before. The even less fortunate foes on Saturday afternoon were the Winnipeg Wesmen, a gourmet's delight, who were utterly devoured by the ravenous Bear scorers to the tune of 11 goals to 2.

And perhaps the strangest feature of the whole banquet was that the most voracious Bear scorer of all, Jack Gibson, fasted this weekend and failed to register a single goal, although he did nibble at the pickings for three assists. The usually wolfish Gibson had previously counted eight times in the four preceding league games.

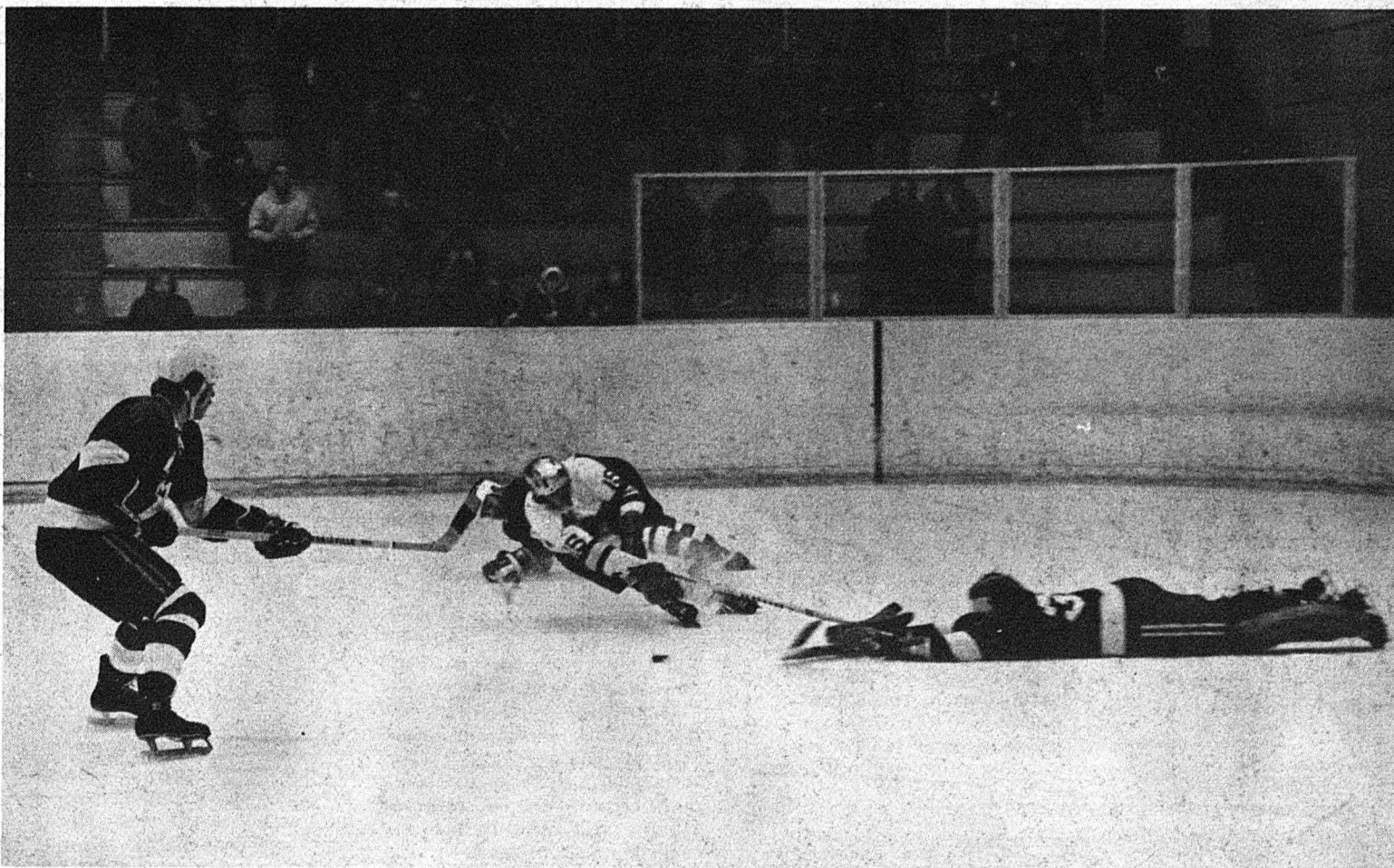
Easy time of it

Friday's contest was for the most part a lackadaisical affair, as the Huskies proved to be a rather coarse bunch, long on rough tactics by college standards, but short on talent. In fact it appeared at numerous instances throughout the game that their best offensive maneuver was simply to shoot the puck down the ice from their own end and hope that it was on the Bear net and somehow would find its way past goaltender Barry Richardson. Such was not to be the case; as the only goal Richardson yielded came with only ten seconds left in the second period when defencemen Steve Carlyle and Bryon Baltimore, not normally partners on the blueline, got mixed up in front of their own net, enabling

Huskie forward Bob James to lift a soft, screened backhand past Richardson. And while the Bear netminder was having a fairly easy time of it, the rest of the Bears played only as well in their own end and at mid-ice as was necessary to ensure a victory. But once around the Saskatchewan net, they did seem to perk up somewhat as the game progressed and only some sound netminding by Lauren Shmyr in the Huskie net kept the score from mounting.

After a listless first period which was scoreless, the Bears opened up a four goal margin in the second on tallies by Cal Botterill, Carlyle, and Marcel St. Arnaud with two before James scored the lone Huskie goal. Then in the third frame rookie defenceman Brian Middleton notched his first goal in regular season play with a hard slapshot from the point and veteran centre Randy Clark capped off a good Bear power play with a well-timed blast between Shmyr's legs.

The three stars of the game, as selected by Golden Bear head footballcoach Jim Donlevy, who



THE BEARS SCORED A LOT OF GOALS

...but this time Wesmen goalie George Hopkinson foiled forward Randy Clark(15).

in his undergraduate years as manager of the Bear hockey team used to tell this reporter to get lost every time he tried to bum sticks as a youngster hanging around the old Varsity Arena, were Carlyle, St. Arnaud, and Shmyr.

No contest

But if the Bears played lacklustre hockey on Friday night, they were merely whetting their appetites for the following afternoon's contest, or perhaps no-contest, against the Wesmen. A number of Golden Ones found the Winnipeggers to be a particular gastronomic treat, as Clark, Dave Couves (who missed several good scoring opportunities against the Huskies), and Harvey Poon counted two goals apiece, while Baltimore, with his first of the year, St. Arnaud, Jerry LeGraudeur, Gerry Hornby, and Clarence Wanchulak all contributed single goals. For the Wesmen, Joe Fras caught Bear goalie Jim Coombs wandering after a loose puck late in the first period to score the first visitor's goal, and Bill Kearns tallied with only a few seconds remaining in the second stanza when the usually reliable Bear penalty killing team broke down. It was particularly disheartening for the Wesmen, who had entered the weekend tied with the Bears for first place in the WCIAA standings, dropped a 4-2 decision to Calgary on Friday night, and saw their visions of a new era in Wesmen hockey dissolve completely as the Bears methodically amassed a score which was highly reminiscent of previous seasons when the Wesmen struggled in the lower echelons of the league.

The three stars of Saturday's game, chosen by Journal sportswriter Jim Matheson, were Poon, Clark and LeGrandeur.

Matheson is a former U of W student, and while covering the game he was convinced it was simply a replay, cleverly arranged by assistant athletic director Chuck Moser, of previous debacles he had witnessed many times before in Winnipeg.

The weekend was particularly productive for Poon, who added six assists to his two goals for an eight point weekend, and Clark, who garnered five points on the strength of his three goals and two assists.

Enviably record

Thus after six league games the Bears emerge at Christmas break

in undisputed possession of first place in the WCIAA, with an enviable record of six wins, no losses, no ties. In the half-dozen games they have scored 46 goals for an average of 7.66 per game, while yielding only 9, or 1.5 per game. The Golden Ones will carry these impressive statistics into the second portion of the league schedule when classes resume and they face their stiffest opponents. The Bears still must play the University of Manitoba Bisons and the surging Dinnies, who thrashed the Huskies 8-1 on Saturday afternoon, twice each and meet the UBC Thunderbirds, who presently appear to be their strongest rivals for the league title, four times.

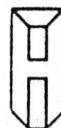
While it is still uncertain just what exhibition games the Bears will be playing over the holidays, certainly the highlight should be the December 28-9 Hockey Canada Invitational Hockey Tournament in Vancouver. It is a single knock-out affair with the Bears scheduled to play the always powerful University of Toronto Blues and the Thunderbirds tangling with the Sir George Williams Georgians in the first round, the two losers meeting the following day in the consolation final, followed by the two previous night's winners battling for the tournament championship. The winner of the Golden Bear-Blues contest should prove to be the eventual winner.

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